



**Social Studies Grade 6
Scoring Guide for
Released Item #47
Cell Phones in Elementary Schools
Fall 2006**

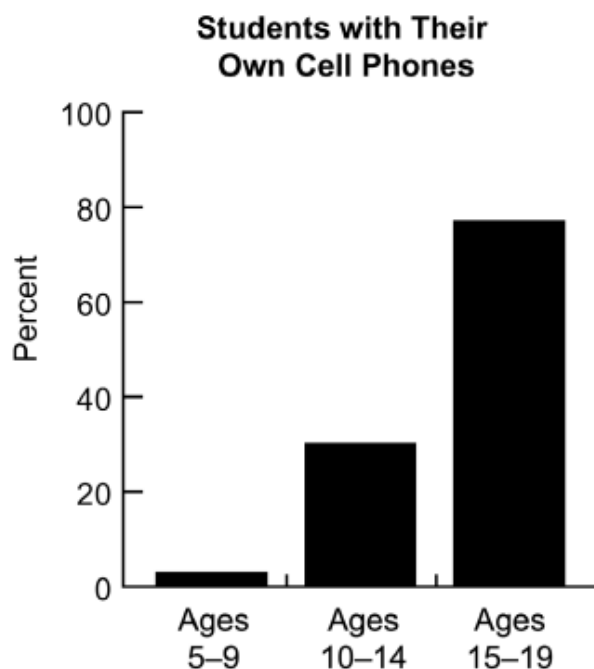


INQUIRY AND DECISION MAKING

Directions: Read the following information about a public policy issue. Use it with what you know to complete the tasks that follow. You should take about 20 minutes to complete both Task I and Task II.

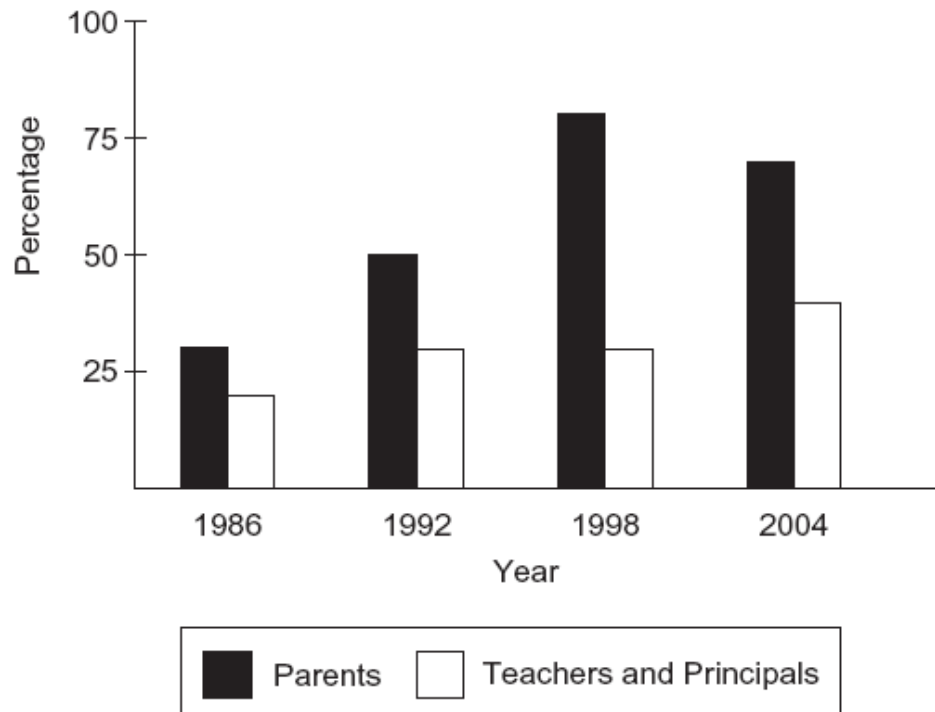
CELL PHONES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The school board of Washington Creek has been asked to review their policy of not allowing elementary students to bring cell phones to school. In 1988, Michigan made a law that students could not bring cell phones to school. In 2003, the State Legislature voted to give school districts the authority to make their own rules. Some people think children should be able to use cell phones to contact their parents in case of an emergency at school. Many school officials think cell phones interfere with learning. The school board is gathering information to help them make a decision.

DATA SECTION**Part A**

DATA SECTION (continued)**Part B**

Percentage of People Who
Would Allow Students to
Have Cell Phones In Schools



Task II: Taking a Stand

You will now take a stand on the following public policy issue.

47 Should the school board of Washington Creek allow students to have cell phones in elementary schools?

You may either support or oppose allowing students to have cell phones in elementary schools. Write a letter to a member of the school board. Use information to provide reasons that support your position.

You will be graded on the following criteria. Your letter must include:

- a clear and supported statement of your position;
- supporting information using a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy; and
- supporting information from the Data Section.

Remember: • Write or print neatly on the lines provided in your **Answer Document**.

- No additional sheets may be used.
- Nothing written in this booklet will be scored.

**Some Core Democratic Values of
American Constitutional Democracy**

Life
Liberty
The Pursuit of Happiness
Public or Common Good
Justice
Equality
Diversity
Truth
Popular Sovereignty
Patriotism
The Rule of Law
Individual Rights

Holistic Feature Scoring of Civic Writing: Grades 6

Points	Description
3	<p>In order to receive a 3-point score, the response must</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a clearly stated position on the issue and support for that position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Students should use words such as support/oppose, for/against, agree/disagree, or should/should not – Do not accept those who do not take a stand, who say someone else (parents, school, or government) should decide the issue 2. Provide at least one supporting point that is based on the Core Democratic Values of American constitutional democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position 3. Provide at least one piece of accurate, valid, and relevant supporting information from the Data Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not accept if this support contradicts stated position – Data interpretations must be more right than wrong
2	<p>In order to receive a 2-point score, the response must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue, and • contain at least 1 of the remaining 2 elements
1	<p>In order to receive a 1-point score, the response must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a clearly stated and supported position on the issue
0	<p>Response shows no evidence of a clear position or the position is not supported in any way.</p>

NOTE: The supporting points used by students must be explained in enough detail to show a clear connection to the position taken.

Anchor Paper 1 – Score Point 3

Dear School Board,

I think that students from elementary schools should not have cell phones because they will never use them, and they are loud.

A core democratic value that supports my position is Common Good. It means that a person or group of people have to give up something for the good of a larger group. Students with cell phones have to leave them at home so they don't disrupt the other students.

Some data that supports my position is that 63% of teachers and principals said they didn't want them at school in 2004.

That is why I think that elementary school students should not have cell phones at school.

Anchor Paper 1**Score Point 3**

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position *“I think that students from elementary schools should not have cell phones because they will never use them, and they are loud.”*

Core Democratic Value: “Common Good” -- The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American constitutional democracy *“...Common Good. It means that a person or group of people have to give up something for the good of a larger group. Students... have to leave them at home so they don’t disrupt the other students.”*

Data -- The response provides one piece of accurate, valid, relevant supporting information from the Data Section *“63% of teachers and principals said they didn’t want them at school in 2004.”*

Anchor Paper 2 – Score Point 3

I think in Elementary you should be able to bring cell phones to school.

Cell phones are not something that the school has to provide the children with so if there parents decide that they should have a phone then they should be allowed to bring them. I think that if in middle school you can bring phones then in elementary you should be able to bring phones because of the core democratic value equality.

Parent are favoring elementary students bringing phones to school and they have to by them so they should be able to bring phones to school.

Anchor Paper 4
Score Point 3

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "...in Elementary you should be able to bring phones to school...if there parents decide that they should have a phone then they should be allowed to bring them."

Core Democratic Value: "Equality" -- The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American constitutional democracy "...if in middle school you can bring phones then in elementary you should be able to bring phones because of the core democratic value equality."

Data -- The response provides one piece of accurate, valid, relevant supporting information from the Data Section "Parent are favoring elementary students bringing phones to school..." The absence of specific, concrete data is weak, but it exhibits understanding of the overall upward trend through the years that parents generally support elementary students taking cell phones to school.

Anchor Paper 3 – Score Point 2

Dear School board members,
I go to Washington Creek and I do not want people having cell phones. They are annoying and distracting. Instead of shutting them off they take them on to the bus and play the ringtones.

A Core Democratic value that supports this issue is public or common good. Common is when you give up something for the better of a larger group of people. If they gave up bringing their cell phones to school it would be better for the people at school.

There is also data that supports this issue. In part A of the data section it shows that some kids do carry cell phones, that are in the elementary do even though most are in the middle school and some in high school. In part B it shows that in the last 18 years that teachers and principals have had about the same opinion but parents have allowed more and more children to have cell phones.

So therefore you see that the problem is only getting worse so I hope you read my story - paragraphs and consider what I wrote.

Anchor Paper 3**Score Point 2**

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position “...*I do not want people having cell phones. They are annoying and distracting.*”

Core Democratic Value: “Common Good” -- The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American constitutional democracy “...*common good. Common is when you give up something for the better of a larger group of people. If they gave up bringing their cell phones to school it would be better for the people at school.*”

Data – No Credit Awarded. The response does not provide accurate supporting information from the Data Section. The statement “*In part A of the data section it shows that some kids do carry cell phones. that are in the Elementary do even though most are in the middle school and some in high school.*” is incorrect. The second piece of data presented “*In part b it shows that it the last 18 years that teachers and principals have had about the same opinion but parents have allowed more and more children to have cell phones.*” is misinterpreted. Neither piece of data is acceptable for credit.

Anchor Paper 4 – Score Point 2

Dear School Board,

Yes, I think students should be able to use cell phones in school because if there is an emergency, students should be able to notify their parents. Then their parents can know and not be so worried. Sometimes also teachers and staff don't always let students to use the school phones. If the students can't bring their cell phones in and teachers and staff don't let students use the school phones, then students can't let their parents know that there is an emergency at school.

A core democratic value that supports my opinion is the common good. The common good is a value that is good for all people and if students could have cell phones in school that would good in case of emergency.

In the data section Part B in 1998-2004 over 75% of parent said yes that their children should have cell phones in school. I think that is because they want their children to be safe at school. I want to be safe in school too. That is why I think students should be able to have cell phones in school. Keep me in mind when you decide.

Anchor Paper 4**Score Point 2**

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "Yes... students should be able to use cell phones in school because if there is an emergency, students should be able to notify their parents."

Core Democratic Value: "Common Good" -- The response provides a supporting point that is based on core democratic values of American constitutional democracy "The common good is a value that is good for all people and if students could have cell phones in school that would good in case of emergency." While common good is not extended to include the good for the entire community, it is explained and applied for the benefit of individual students. This narrow application is acceptable as it connects with the stated position and support.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response does not provide accurate supporting information from the Data Section "...in 1998-2004 over 75% of parent said yes that their children should have cell phones in school." In the year 2004, less than 75% of parents agreed that children should have cell phones in elementary schools, a significant drop in percentage from the 1998 data. The data reference is therefore incorrect and does not earn credit.

Anchor Paper 5 – Score Point 2

I think that students should be able to have cell phones in school. I think this because kids need to be able to call places at school. This is also away to show Common Good. If something happens, that student needs to have a way for their parents to contact them, so they know. The data shows that in 1986, about twenty-seven percent of parents said kids should have cell phones. Also in 1986, twenty-three percent of teachers said they should. In 1992, fifty-four percent of parents said yes, and twenty-seven percent of teachers said yes. In 1998, seventy-six percent of parents said yes to cell phones and twenty-seven teachers said yes to them. And in 2004, seventy-three percent of parents said that kids should have cell phones, and thirty-five percent of teachers said yes, that kids should have cell phones.

That is why I truly think kids should have cell phones. Then, in case of emergencies, they can call on something. It's for the Common good. Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Anchor Paper 5**Score Point 2**

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position *“I think that students should be able to have cell phones in school...because kids need to be able to call places at school.”* Support is weak given exactly who/where students may need to call while at school is not clearly explained, but does provide back-up for the argument.

Core Democratic Value -- No Credit Awarded. The response offers a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy, *“Common Good.”* However, the concept is neither defined nor developed, so no credit is earned.

Data -- The response provides ample data that, while not strongly linked to the position, follows in the general flow of the argument *“...in 1986, about twenty-seven percent of parents said kids should have cell phones. Also in 1986, twenty-three percent of teachers said they should...”* Continuing in the same vein through the end of the paragraph, all data presented supports the position and hints at the overall upward trend among parents and teachers and principals over the years. The preponderance of data makes it creditable. Thus, the data is not considered a “data dump”.

Anchor Paper 6 – Score Point 2

Yes, I think Washington creek should allow students to have cell phones. I think this because incase of an emergency and you don't have a phone near you you could use their cell phone instead. If you look at graph B it shows that from 1986-2004 teachers and principals have allowed cell phones. Maybe they could bring it and just turn it off. A core democratic value would be Individual Rights, because if teachers and principals have cell phones kids have the same rights to have one.

Anchor Paper 6
Score Point 2

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "Yes,... Washington Creek should allow students to have cell phones...because incase of an emergency and you don't have a phone near you you could use their cell phone instead."

Core Democratic Value: "Justice / Equality" -- The response offers a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy "Individual Rights." However, the explanation clearly refers to Justice or Equality as the CDV "...if teachers and principals have cell phones kids have the same rights to have one." Although mislabeled, the core democratic value, as explained, adequately supports the argument and is accurately applied.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response does not provide accurate, valid, relevant supporting information from the Data Section "...graph B it shows that from 1986-2004 teachers and principals have allowed cell phones." In all those years, less than 50% of teachers and principals supported cell phones in elementary schools; thus the interpretation of data is incorrect and invalid.

Anchor Paper 7 – Score Point 1

Dear school board member,

I think that children in elementary schools should be allowed to have cell phones in school. I think this is important because if there is an emergency like a fire or a tornado or some other thing like that. The students would want to contact their parent or who ever taking care of them as soon as possible. A core democratic value that occurs in this is Individual Rights it says that everyone as an individual has the right to do what they feel is the right thing to do. In ages 15-19 on the chart about 80 percent have their own cell phones and in 2004 about 75 percent want their kids to have their own cell phones.

From,

Anchor Paper 7
Score Point 1

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "...children in elementary schools should be allowed to have cell phones in school. ...this is important because if there is an emergency like a fire or a tornado or some other thing like that."

Core Democratic Value -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides a core demographic value of American constitutional democracy "Individual Rights", but omits which specific right is critical to support the argument. Further, the explanation "...everyone as an individual has the right to do what they feel is the right thing to do..." is misguided and not linked to the overall response.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides data that is irrelevant or unexplained in relationship to the stated position "In ages 15-19... about 80 percent have their own cell phones...and in 2004 about 75 percent... [who?] ...want their kids to have their own cell phone."

Anchor Paper 8 – Score Point 1

I believe that students should be able to bring their cell phones to school. I think the school board of Washington Creek should allow them to. Cell phones would teach the students responsibility.

The Core Democratic Value that supports my position is the Pursuit of Happiness. That CDV supports my position because every student has the Pursuit of Happiness to have a cell phone in school. Information from the data section shows that many teachers, parents, and students agree with this term.

Anchor Paper 8
Score Point 1

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "...students should be able to bring their cell phones to school...Cell phones would teach the students responsibility."

Core Democratic Value -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy "Pursuit of Happiness" but is undefined and inappropriately applied "...because every student has the pursuit of happiness to have a cell phone in school." The inaccuracy and vagueness of the explanation receives no credit.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides only incomplete information based on the Data Section and is not relevant to the position "...the data section shows that many teachers, parents, and students agree with this term." The statement is too general and too vague for credit.

Anchor Paper 9 – Score Point 1

Yes becuse they might have an emergency that they want no one else to know about so they can use ther own phone to do it.

**Anchor Paper 9
Score Point 1**

Position -- The response provides a clearly stated position on the issue and adequately supports the position "Yes becuse they might have an emergency that they want no one to know about so they can use ther own phone to do it."

Core Democratic Value -- No Credit Awarded. The response makes no attempt to address core democratic value.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response makes no attempt to address the Data Section.

Anchor Paper 10 – Score Point 0

Yes I think students should be aloud to have cell phones in school. In my next paragraph I will tell you why.

I think kids should be aloud to bring there cell phones to school. The Core Democratic value Individual Right supports my desision. No one told adults no cell phones. Also data shows that more people are letting kids bring Cell phones to School.

This is why I think Kids should be able to bring cell phones to School.

**Anchor Paper 10
Score Point 0**

Position -- No Credit Awarded. The response presents a clear position in support of the issue "Yes... students should be aloud to have cell phones in school." The response, however, does not provide support for the argument; thus no credit is earned for the entire response.

Core Democratic Value -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides a core democratic value of American constitutional democracy "Individual Rights" but the specific individual right is omitted, and no explanation is given.

Data -- No Credit Awarded. The response provides only a vague reference to Data Section "data shows that more people are letting kids bring cell phones to school" with no clarity or elaboration.